

1. A method of automatically configuring communication services for a subscriber within a communication system, comprising the steps of:

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sensing an external parameter;

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choosing for the particular subscriber, a configuration of communication services from a plurality of configurations; and

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using the chosen configuration in respect of the subscriber, wherein

said choosing is performed in dependence on a pre-defined criterion and the sensed external parameter.

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2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the plurality of configurations is dependent upon the subscriber.

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3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pre-defined criterion is dependent upon the subscriber.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the choosing is performed each time a call is made.

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5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of configurations are ranked in order of priority such that one of relatively higher priority which satisfies the criterion is used before one of relatively lower priority which also satisfies the criterion.

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6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a configuration is designated to be used in the event that no other configurations meet the pre-defined criterion.
- 5 7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the automatic process may be manually overridden to use a configuration.
8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein use of a certain configuration is not permitted according to a predefined rule.
- 10 9. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of configurations are stored in a central database of a communication system.
- 15 10. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the central database is a Home Location Register of a GSM system.
11. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predefined criterion is dependent upon the date.
- 20 12. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predefined criterion is dependent upon the time.
13. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predefined criterion is dependent upon the location of the mobile station.
- 25 14. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predefined criterion is dependent upon the equipment identity of the mobile station.
15. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predefined criterion is dependent upon the number called.

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16. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predefined criterion is dependent upon the type of call made.
- 5 17. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a configuration is chosen according to a plurality of predefined criteria.
18. An apparatus, for use in a communication system, comprising :
- 10 a register of subscribers to the communication system;
- a register of alternative configurations;
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- 15 sensing means for sensing an external parameter;
- means for choosing one of the alternative configurations in response to said sensing means and a predefined criterion ; and
- means for using the chosen configuration in respect of a particular subscriber.
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19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein said registers form part of the Home Location Register (HLR) of a GSM communication system.
- 25 20. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the register of alternative configurations is associated with the subscriber.
21. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein pre-defined criterion is associated with the subscriber.

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22. An apparatus or method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the external parameter is an environmental parameter.
23. An apparatus or method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the external  
5 parameter is a hardware parameter.

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